



# 1995-96 KIRIS OPEN-RESPONSE ITEM SCORING WORKSHEET

## Grade 8 — Social Studies Question 3

The academic expectation covered by this item is:

**2.17 Students interact effectively and work cooperatively with the many diverse ethnic and cultural groups of our nation and world.**

The core content assessed by this item includes:

- Language, literature, the arts, beliefs, and behavior help define culture.
- All cultures develop institutions, customs, beliefs, and holidays reflecting their unique histories and situations (e.g., sports, marriage ceremonies, markets, mosques, Memorial Day, Chanukah, Kwanza).

### 3. Melting Pot or Salad Bowl?

**Melting Pot** - A melting pot means that the different ethnic groups in the United States have given up some of their culture and traditions and have blended (melted) together to form one American culture.

**Salad Bowl** - A salad bowl means that ethnic groups have kept their culture and traditions yet contribute to the culture of the United States, just as each individual ingredient in a salad has its unique flavor yet contributes to the whole salad.

Which term — “salad bowl” or “melting pot” — would be a better description of United States Society? Explain your answer, using relevant examples.

## SCORING GUIDE

Score	Description
4	Response identifies one term to describe United States society, and includes relevant social and cultural examples and accurate knowledge of immigration history. Response may compare the terms to show why a particular one was chosen.
3	Response identifies one term to describe United States society and includes some relevant social and cultural examples.
2	Response identifies one term to describe United States society but lack of understanding of meaning of terms is evident. Cultural and social examples are minimal or lack relevance.
1	Response identifies one term to describe United States society. If examples are included, they are listed without explanation.
0	Response is incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	Blank/no response.

Social/cultural examples that could be cited:

- American holidays (4th of July, Thanksgiving, etc.)
- Antidiscrimination laws
- Ethnic traditions and festivals
- Religious convictions



# KIRIS ASSESSMENT ANNOTATED RESPONSE

## GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES

### Sample 4-Point Response of Student Work

Student response identifies one of the terms to describe American Culture.

Student presents several examples of ethnic/cultural holidays, and celebrations to support his/her choice of salad bowl.

Student's response is very well-developed and organized.

Sometimes it's hard to describe the society of the United States. We have so many different kinds of people with different cultures and traditions, which is one reason why I consider us a "salad bowl." Our society is like a salad bowl because of the different flavors of ethnic groups that are found in the United States. For the most part, the different ethnic groups have kept their culture and tradition but have added to the culture of the U.S. Some examples of our "salad bowl" are, first many holidays in our calendar have originated from other ethnic groups. Some holidays that our society has adapted are Hanukah, which is a Jewish holiday, Halloween, and Mardi Gras, which is a French holiday. These holidays have become a part of the American calendar. Also, some holidays, such as the Chinese New Year, are celebrated by thousands of people with parades. One example of this is St. Patrick's Day which comes from Irish ethnic groups. Clothes are also examples of ethnic influence. If you walk around you will notice that many clothes such as bright, vivid colored clothes are worn which originated from African groups and groups from the Carribean Island. Also, people still wear their ethnic groups' native wear such as the Amish, a very religious group. The women wear dresses and bonnets while the men wear traditional pants and shirts. Even African women still wear their colorful patterned dresses and hats. As you can see, our society is different from other countries because of all the different cultures and traditions. Every American is different due to traditions and cultures but we're all the same because we all believe in freedom and independence.

Student response shows knowledge that all cultures develop institutions, customs, beliefs, and holidays reflecting their unique histories and situations.

Student understands that clothes (dress) can help define culture.

Student presents additional examples (i.e., dress) to further support his/her choice of salad bowl.

Student includes an insightful summary statement which shows knowledge that elements of culture may be shared among various groups, but the same elements help define cultures.



# KIRIS ASSESSMENT ANNOTATED RESPONSE

## GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES

### Sample 3-Point Response of Student Work

Student chooses one term, melting pot, to describe the United States' culture.

Student provides relevant but general examples to support the “melting pot” choice.

Melting pot would be the best description of the United States. It is true because people melt together. (Ex) A Frenchman marries a Swedish woman. All different races live together in communities all across America. Another reason America is the melting pot is because people from countries all around the world come together and live as one society. That is why America is the melting pot.

Student understands the differences between the two terms and concludes that various cultures exist in the United States and blend into one American culture.

Student response is organized effectively by choosing an answer; providing information to support the answer; and including a conclusion statement.



# KIRIS ASSESSMENT ANNOTATED RESPONSE GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES

## Sample 2-Point Response of Student Work

Student chooses one term to describe the United States' culture.

Student uses the “salad bowl” definition included in question to focus on the “differences” among ethnic groups, but does not expand his/her ideas.

I think Salad Bowl would be a better name because here in America there are many different kind of people, different colors, different originalities, and different religious freedoms. Theyre all different. Just like a salad. There are many different things in there. KIRIS

Student shows knowledge of some elements that define culture.

## Sample 1-Point Response of Student Work

Student chooses one term to describe the United States' culture.

Response is general and does not contain sufficient information to support answer.

“Salad Bowl it describes how our society can be by the good things for us such as the lettuce in the bowl. Our society has a lot of good things to it. So I believe the “salad bowl” best describes it.

Student response includes irrelevant information indicating lack of knowledge.

# INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

## Melting Pot or Salad Bowl?

Select different cultures and give presentations on how they have become assimilated/blended into U.S. culture (melting pot) and how they have still maintained their cultural identity (salad bowl).

*(The thought here is that cultures are never completely assimilated or separate. They fall somewhere between.)*

Collect and analyze data from individuals and organizations both pro and con on the “US/one culture” debate.

Research on the naturalization requirements of the U.S. Then make recommendations of whether those requirements should be changed, expanded, or deleted.

Select different countries and examine their requirements for citizenship. Compile the information into a booklet and place it in the school library.

Research the “English should be officially declared as our national language” debate. Then, take a position on this issue and relate it to either the salad bowl or the melting pot philosophy.

“If you moved to a new country, would you want to keep your own traditions or adopt the traditions of your new country?” Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both.

Create and eat a fruit (or vegetable) salad. Notice how each ingredient is identifiable in the salad. Then create and eat a soup that has been cooked so that the ingredients are completely blended. Discuss the differences and preferences of the soup and salad. Relate this activity to the original question.

Divide the class into two groups. Have one group create a mural of people who look and dress alike. The other group creates a mural of people with a variety of cultural clothing and skin and hair colors, etc. Use the murals as a springboard to a discussion about the “salad bowl” and “melting pot” descriptions of America.

Use census data to create a map and time line that display the major waves of immigration to the United States. Examine the push and pull factors that contributed to these waves of immigration.